

EU fury at Iran nukes

Sanctions threatened

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FRANKFURT

FRANCE and Germany have threatened fresh sanctions against Iran and leading companies have said they will quit doing business in the country following revelations that Tehran is working on a nuclear warhead.

"Of course Iran has the right to use nuclear energy for civil purposes, but it has no right to create nuclear weapons," German foreign minister Guido Westerwelle said.

And French foreign ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said the revelations confirmed "very serious concerns".

The comments came in response to a report by the UN International Atomic

Energy Agency on Thursday suggesting Tehran had either resumed working on a nuclear weapon or had never stopped in 2007, as was concluded by a US intelligence assessment.

Russia, which has been on the fence about whether to impose new UN sanctions against Iran, said it was "very alarmed".

And top German insurance firms Munich Re and Allianz have said that they will not be renewing their reinsurance business in Iran because of the worrying political developments there.

But from the deck of Iran's new guided-missile destroyer, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday denied that Tehran was

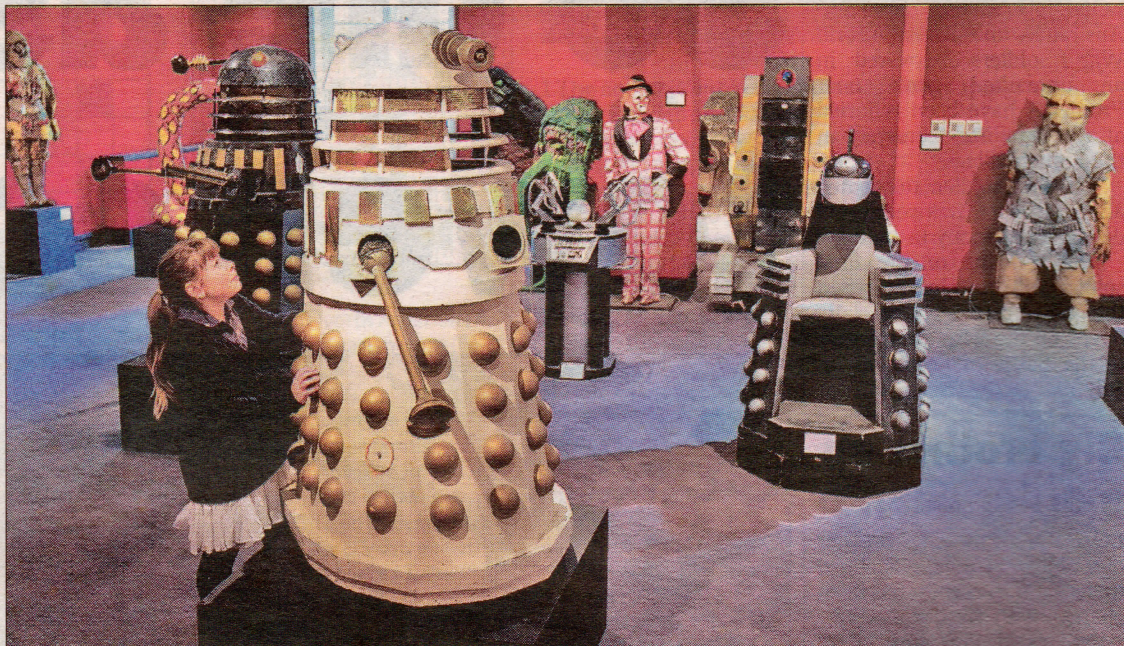
seeking nuclear weapons and criticised the US military presence in the Gulf.

Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, said his country was not developing nuclear weapons because Islam forbids weapons of mass destruction.

"Because of this reason, we don't have any belief in the atomic bomb and don't pursue it," he said after taking a tour of the destroyer Jamaran, which was launched on Friday at a Gulf port.

US military officials said last month that Washington was deploying upgraded Patriot missiles in Arab nations in the region and more US Navy ships in the Persian Gulf capable of destroying missiles in flight.

The Doc goes under hammer



SIZING UP: Sophie Sheaf, 12, poses between two Daleks to be sold at Bonhams this week.



FACE OFF: Mask of the Malus, from 1984.

LONDON: It's the auction sure to have every sci-fi fan pulsating with excitement.

Kylie Minogue's waitress outfit will be among costumes and props from the hit British TV show *Doctor Who* to go under the hammer in London this week.

Kylie's outfit, which featured in the *Dr Who* episode *Voyage of the Damned*, is among a horde of Cybermen, Daleks and other characters made famous by the long-running series.

Costumes worn by David Tennant as the 10th Doctor will also be offered for sale at auction house Bonhams on Wednesday.

The costume Minogue wore as spaceship waitress Astrid Peth in a 2007 Christmas special is expected to fetch up to £3000 (\$A5175).

Tennant's two-piece dinner suit, worn in three episodes, is expected to reach a similar price.

One of two Imperial Daleks costumes from 1988 could raise up to £7000 (\$A12,077). The other, altered for exhibition purposes, could fetch £3500 (\$A6038).



TALL ORDER: Charlie Sheaf, 11, beside a Cyberman costume in the auction.

Argentina talks tough

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina has ruled out military action to reassert its sovereignty claims on the Falkland Islands, but insists on negotiations with Britain over oil exploration in what it says are its territorial waters, a top diplomat says.

Deputy Foreign Minister Victorio Taccetti said residents of the islands Argentina occupied for two months in 1982 don't need to worry about war,

but he insisted Buenos Aires won't give up its claims to 'Las Malvinas'.

With oil and gas exploration set to begin in the Falklands, Argentine President Cristina Fernandez decreed that any boat travelling to or from the islands must get prior permission. But Britain has told ships to ignore her.

Taccetti said the main aim was to negotiate Buenos Aires' sovereignty claims with Britain, which

defeated Argentina in the 1982 conflict.

Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana will ask the Rio Group summit in Cancun next week to condemn Britain's "unilateral and illegal" exploration.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Friday said Britain should, "Get out of there, give the Malvinas back to the Argentine people. Enough already with the empire". AP

Saudi prince on kill charge

LONDON: A Saudi prince has appeared in court charged with murdering a compatriot, said to be an aide, who was found strangled in a top London hotel this week.

Saud Bin Abdulaziz Bin Nasir Bin Abdulaziz al Saud, 33, is accused of killing Bandar Abdullah Abdulaziz, 32, on Monday at the Landmark Hotel in the Marylebone district, police said.

Al Saud was remanded in custody to appear at London's Old Bailey on May 28.

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